

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03491 01 OF 03 061327Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 EUR-12
PA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /133 W
-----035718 061407Z /42
R 052129Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5622

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 3491

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PARM, MNUC, ENRG, TECH, AR
SUBJECT ASSESSMENT OF ARGENTINE NUCLEAR POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY:

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINE NUCLEAR POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMS US GOA WILL ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTION TO RATIFY TLATELOLCO AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. THE DECISION IS STILL UNDER REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENCY AS TO A DATE OF RATIFICATION AND WHETHER RATIFICATION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANY CONDITION FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE. WE DO NOT FEEL THE PNE STATEMENT WILL ACCOMPANY RATIFICATION. THE GOA IS REVIEWING THE US DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, PARTICULARLY THE FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARS AND DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING ISSUES. EVENTUAL FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS DOES NOT SEEM TO PRESENT A MAJOR PROBLEM, BUT DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING WOULD ALMOST HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SIMILAR AGREEMENT BY BRAZIL. THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IS ALSO UNDER DEBATE. THE ISSUE IS WHETHER TO CONTINUE BEYOND ATUCHA II WITH NUCLEAR POWER OR CONCENTRATE MORE ON HYDROPOWER. THE WEST GERMAN KWU HEAVY WATER REACTOR SEEMS TO HAVE THE EDGE AT THIS POINT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03491 01 OF 03 061327Z

FOR ATUCHA II. A 250 TON HEAVY WATER PLANT IS IN INITIAL PLANNING FOR THE NEUQUEN AREA, BUT THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A HUGE INVESTMENT AND WILL DEPEND ON THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. ARGENTINA IS STILL IN DESPERATE NEED OF HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY.
-- A REPROCESSING PLANT IS IN DESIGN STAGES FOR THE EZEIZA ATOMIC CENTER, BUT NO CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN

STARTED. AT PRESENT, ARGENTINA IS NOT REPROCESSING ANY FUEL AT EZEIZA.

-- NUCLEAR FUEL IS STILL A PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY FOR THE DESIGN OF A RESEARCH REACTOR OVER 1000 KW. ARGENTINA DOES NOT HAVE URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY TO COMPLETE ITS UNDERSTANDINGS WITH PERU AND BOLIVIA TO PROVIDE REACTORS IN THE 3 TO 5 MW RANGE. ARGENTINA HOPES FOR HEU FROM THE US FOR THE RA-3. ARGENTINA SEEMS TO BE FILLING THE GAP IN LATIN AMERICA AS A MAJOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS SUPPLIER AND IS ACTIVE IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. CASTRO MADEROS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE CNEA SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT SHAKY THESE DAYS SINCE THE ARMY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ITS OWN MAN AS PRESIDENT. THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL MACHINATIONS BETWEEN THE ARMY AND NAVY IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

-- THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPENDIUM OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE SOME EVALUATIONS AND JUDGMENTS.

2. TREATY OF TLATELOLCO:

PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT ARGENTINA, TO MEET ITS COMMITMENT TO THE US, WILL RATIFY TLATELOLCO. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) HAS TOLD US UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE GOA WILL ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTION TO RATIFY TLATELOLCO AT THE UNSPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AT THE END OF MAY; TIMING OF RATIFICATION AND CONDITIONS ARE STILL UNDER REVIEW BY THE GOA. THERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03491 01 OF 03 061327Z

IS STILL SOME QUESTION WHETHER VIDELA WILL ATTEND THE MEETING. IF HE DOES GO, VIDELA WILL MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT HIMSELF. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TOLD ON REPEATED OCCASIONS IN THE PST WEEKS BY MFA AND CNEA OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY CASTRO MAERO, THAT THE TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED WITH THE CONDITION THAT IT WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE ONLY AFTER ALL COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE TREATY AND PROTOCOLS 1 AND 2 -- SIMILAR TO BRAZIL. THIS POSITION MAY BE ALTERED BY RECENT FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS ON TLATELOLCO IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE USSR PLANS TO SIGN (AND WE ASSUME RATIFY PROTOCOL 2), THE PROSPECT THAT CUBA MAY BE MOVING TOWARD SIGNING AND RATIFYING, AND THE INTENTION TO RATIFY PROTOCOL 1 NOW THAT ACTION ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. BECAUSE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SOURCES WHOSE RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THE GOA MAY BE LEANING TOWARD RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE. THE INTENTION TO TAKE THIS ACTION MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENTS SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ON MONDAY THAT THE GOA WORK TOWARDS

IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE US IN ORDER TO BUILD A
PERMANENT COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP FOR NUCLEAR AND NON
CONVENTIONAL ENERGY COLLABORATION SUCH AS WIND AND SOLAR.
ARGENTINA WOULD REPORTEDLY LIKE TO EXHIBIT ITS NUCLEAR
INTEGRITY TO THE WORLD AT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.
THE GOA IS HOPEFUL THIS MOVE MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE
BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TO WAIVE TLATELOLCO INTO FORCE
FOR BRAZIL. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT
ARGENTINA COULD NOT POLITICALLY TOLERATE BRAZIL
HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A WEAPONS PROGRAM WITHOUT
MAINTAINING A SIMILAR OPTION FOR ARGENTINA. SOME FIRM
DECISION ON THESE ISSUES WILL BE MADE IN THIS LAST
MONTH BEFORE THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. THE EMBASSY,
ON EVERY AVAILABLE OCCASION, HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONFIRM THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BUENOS 03491 01 OF 03 061327Z

UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA LAST
NOVEMBER THAT THE GOA WOULD RATIFY TLATELOLCO, ALBEIT
NOT WAIVING THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR ENTRY INTO
FORCE OF TLATELOLCO, BUT WITHOUT A STATEMENT CONCERNING
PNES. THERE IS ALSO THE REALIZATION BY THE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03491 02 OF 03 061343Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 EUR-12
PA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /133 W
-----035781 061408Z /42

R 052129Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5623

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 3491

GOA THAT THESE EVENTS WOULD FACILITATE COOPERATION WITH
THE US, SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF HEU FOR THE RA-3,
AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS OUR WILLINGNESS TO
ACCEPT RETRANSFER TO US OF RA-3 SPENT FUEL.

3. FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AND NUCLEAR POWER:

THE FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE IS NOW BECOMING MORE PROMINENT. THE GOA SEEMS TO HAVE GREATER AWARENESS THAT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ARE INEVITABLE FOR FUTURE NUCLAR COOPERATION WHICH WILL BE NEED IF THEY INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON AN ADVANCED POWER PROGRAM. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO ACCEPT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, THE MOST LIKELY WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS BY FOLLOWING THROUGH ON TLATELOLCO BY THE NEGOTIATION OF A FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA. THEY NOW HAVE SAFEGUARDS ON THE RA-3 REACTOR, ATUCHA I, AND ON THE EMBALSE CANDU WHEN IT BEGINS OPERATION. IN ADDITION, ANY FUTURE CANDU LINE OR US SUPPLIED MATERIAL WOULD REQUIRE FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. THE ONLY CRITICAL INSTALLATION NOT UNDER SAFEGUARDS AT THIS TIME IS THE FUEL ELEMENT PRODUCTION PLANT.

-- THE CANADIANS ARE COMPLYING WITH THEIR 1973 AGREEMENT WITH THE ARGENTINES AND ARE PROVIDING HEAVY WATER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY (NOT HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY). IN ADDITION, AFTER THE VISIT TWO WEEKS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03491 02 OF 03 061343Z

AGO OF THE HEAD OF THE CANADIAN AEC, ARGENTINA AND CANADA SEEM TO BE ON BETTER TERMS. HOWEVER, THE CANADIANS CLAIM TO BE LOSING \$120 MILLION SO FAR ON THE EMBALSE CANDU AND WILL PROBABLY LOSE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE BEFORE COMPLETION IN 1981. THE CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER CANDU FOR ATUCHA 2 COULD HELP THIS SITUATION SOMEWHAT. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ATUCHA 2 TO PROVIDE A 600 MW KWU HEAVY WATER REACTOR. THE ARGENTINE PRESS CONTAINED AN ARTICLE THIS WEEK INDICATING THE GERMAN FIRM, KRAFTWERK UNION (KWU), WOULD MOST LIKELY RECEIVE ARGENTINA APPROVAL FOR THE ATUCHA II INSTALLATION. THE PLANT IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$600 MILLION. THIS IS THE SAME FIRM THAT BUILT ATUCHA I.

4. REPROCESSING:

CNEA PLANS TO CALL FOR A REPROCESSING PLANT TO BE LOCATED AT EZEIZA ATOMIC CENTER TO EVENTUALLY PRODUCE ABOUT 15 KG OF PLUTONIUM A YEAR. CNEA HAS ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REPROCESSING SMALL AMOUNTS OF SPENT FUEL FROM THE RA-1 AT A LABORATORY FACILITY IN EZEIZA, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN DISMANTLED. THE ARGENTINES ARE NOT DOING ANY REPROCESSING AT THIS TIME. THE PLANNED REPROCESSING PLANT WOULD BE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE RA-3 SPENT FUEL AS WELL AS THE LARGE FUEL RODS FROM ATUCHA I. THE CHOPPING AND COMPRESSING FOR REPROCESSING OF THE SIX METER ATUCHA FUEL RODS WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT

CERTAINLY WITHIN THEIR PRESENT TECHNOLOGY. THE REAL PROBLEM IS PROCESSING THE PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM FOR PREPARATION INTO PELLETS FOR REINSERTION INTO FUEL RODS. THIS HAS BEEN A CONFIDENTIAL AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, BUT CASTRO MADERO AND OTHER CNEA OFFICIALS HAVE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03491 02 OF 03 061343Z

MENTIONED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE GOA WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DEFER REPROCESSING BECAUSE OF URANIUM CONSERVATION AND ALSO IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A REGIONAL EQUIPILIRIUM WITH BRAZIL.

5. NUCLEAR FUEL:

THE CNEA CONSTITUYENTES PLANT HAS PRODUCED TWO COMPLETE FUEL RODS FOR THE ATUCHA REACTOR WHICH PROVED TO WORK EFFECTIVELY. THE PLANT HAS PRODUCED 25 ADDITIONAL COMPLETE FUEL ELEMENTS AND HOPES TO HAVE 60 BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE PLAN IS TO FABRICATE THE COMPLETE ANNUAL FUEL NEEDS FOR ATUCHA I BY 1981, WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 400 FUEL ELEMENTS. THE ZIRCONIUM ORE WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPORTED. THE COMPLETE FUEL ELEMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT WILL BE MOVED TO EZEIZA ATOMIC FACILITY WITHIN ONE YEAR.

-- IN REGARD TO US HEU FOR THE RA-3, THE CNEA REPORT ON THE CHECKLIST REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR 12 KGS OF US HEU HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO DOE THIS WEEK. WE ARE TOLD BY CNEA EXPERTS THAT THE RA-3 WOULD HAVE TO BE SHUT DOWN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WITHOUT THIS ADDITIONAL FUEL.

-- MR RALPH PETERS OF GENERAL ATOMICS MET WITH CNEA FUEL EXPERTS THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE TRIGA FUEL LEU FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE PROPOSED BARILOCHE RACTOR, THE RA-3 AT A LATER DATE, AND REACTOR DESIGN AND ASSISTANCE FOR ARGENTINAS SUPPLY AGREEMENTS WITH PERU AND BOLIVIA. THE FUEL EXPERRTS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT IN A MEETING WITH CASTRO MADERO, MR PETERS WAS TOLD ARGENTINA WANTS THE LEU TECHNOLOGY, NOT THE FUEL, ON A SALES ARRANGEMENT. HE AGREED THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT, LONG STANDING PROBLEM FOR CNEA BUT THEY WANT TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT.

6. HEAVY WATER:

THE CNEA HAS RECENTLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BUENOS 03491 02 OF 03 061343Z

PROVINCE OF NEUQUEN TO EVENTUALLY INSTALL A HEAVY

WATER PLANT ON THE LIMAY RIVER ABOUT 50 MILES FROM THE CITY OF NEUQUEN. BUT THE ONLY MOVEMENT SO FAR IS THE INSTALLATION OF A METEOROLOGICAL TOWER FOR WEATHER STUDIES. SPECIALISTS ARE ALSO MAKING GEOLOGIC AND RIVER ASSESSMENTS. FUTURE PLANS ENVISION A 250 TO 300 TON ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF HEAVY WATER. THIS WOULD BE A HUGE INVESTMENT

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03491 03 OF 03 061242Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 EUR-12
PA-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /133 W
-----035540 061407Z /42

R 052129Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5624

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 3491

WHICH WOULD TAKE ABOUT 10 YEARS TO WORK OUT THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND TO CONSTRUCT THE PLANT, HENCE, THE HIGH INTEREST OF THE GOA FOR THE TECHNOLOGY FROM THEUS OR CANADA. THIS TECHNOLOGY, EX ENVISIONED BY THE GOA, WOULD BE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 200 TON FACILITY, WHICH COULD BE FOLLOWED BY AN INDIGENOUS ARGENTINE PLANT USING THE ACQUIRED TECHNOLOGY FROM THE US OR CANADIAN PLANT. THE CNEA IS CALLING FOR BIDS THIS WEEK FOR A SMALL 2 1/2 TON HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION PLANT TO BE LOCATED AT ATUCHA. THIS PILOT PLANT WOULD PRODUCE THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL LOSS OF HEAVY WATER FROM THE ATUCHA I REACTOR, AS WELL AS ACT AS A TRAINING FACILITY.
-- THE CANADIANS HAVE AGREED TO FURNISH THE FIRST CHARGE OF ABOUT 500 TONS OF HEAVY WATER FOR THE EMBALSE CANDU, WITH A RESERVE OF 25 TONS.

7. ARGENTINE NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES:

-- PERU - THE ZERO POWER REACTOR FOR PERU HAS BEEN DELIVERED AND IS BEING INSTALLED BY ARGENTINE EXPERTS. WE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED ON SEVERAL OCCASION RECENTLY WHEN THE SUPPLY AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE US ORIGIN FUEL. CNEA HAS ALSO

CONTRACTED TO SUPPLY A 10 MW REACTOR TO PERU IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03491 03 OF 03 061242Z

3 1/2 YEARS. THE ARGENTINES FEEL THEY HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO PERU WHICH WILL REFLECT ON FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THAT COUNTRY AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THIS WILL PRESENT A DIFFICULT PROBLEM SINCE CNEA DOES NOT HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO CONSTRUCT A POWER REACTOR OVER ABOUT 1000 KW TO USE LEU FUEL. THESE ARE SERIOUS PROBLEMS CNEA WISHES TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH THE US RELATIVE TO RESEARCH REACTOR LEU FUEL DEVELOPMENT.

-- BOLIVIA - CNEA HAS RECENTLY SIGNED A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVIA FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY PURPOSES, INCLUDING PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF A 5 MW RESEARCH REACTOR AT THE NEW BOLIVIAN CENTER FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH NEAR LA PAZ. THIS AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR ARGENTINE ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATION AND EXTRACTION OF BOLIVIAN RADIOACTIVE MINERAL RESOURCES. CNEA OFFICIALS FEEL THAT BOLIVIAN SCIENTISTS ARE FAR ENOUGH ALONG IN THE REACTOR FIELD SO IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO SUPPLY A ZERO POWER REACTOR FOR TRAINING, AS WITH PERU. BOLIVIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN ARGENTINA ON REACTOR TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1970.

-- URUGUAY - ARGENTINE NUCLEAR EXPERTS HAVE MADE CRITICAL THE SMALL US SUPPLIED 10 KW REACTOR AND WILL FURNISH EXPERTS FOR TRAINING IN REACTOR RESEARCH. UNDER AN OLD COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1968, CNEA RECENTLY SIGNED A PLAN OF ACTION WITH URUGUAY AND REAFFIRMED ARGENTINE ASSISTANCE WITH THE PLANNING FOR A 1500 KW REACTOR TO BE ENTIRELY BUILT BY URUGUAYAN SCIENTISTS. THE PLANS ALSO CALL FOR TRAINING OF URUGUAYAN SCIENTISTS IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, VETERINARIAN RESRACH, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND PLANT SAFETY AT ARGENTINE ATOMIC FACILITIES. HEGOTIATIONS ARE ALSO UNDER WAY WITH CHILE AND ECUADOR FOR S&T COOPERATION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03491 03 OF 03 061242Z

INCLUDING NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND ADVISE.
-- ARGENTINE SEEMS TO BE FILLING THE GAP IN LATIN AMERICA AS A MAJOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS SUPPLIER AS WELL AS FURNISHING TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THESE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND CALCULATED MOVES BY ARGENTINA TO HOLD THE NUCLEAR LEAD IN LATIN AMERICA AND PREEMPT BRAZIL.

8. ADDITIONAL GENERAL COMMENTS:

THE GOA FEELS THAT EVENTS ARE MOVING TOO RAPIDLY AND DOES NOT WANT TO BE PUSHED INTO A CORNER. IT WANTS ADDITIONAL TIME TO MAKE THE NUCLEAR DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE US TERMS, AS SPECIFIED IN THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THE CONDITION UNDER WHICH THE US WOULD SUPPLY HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY AS PROPOSED LAST NOVEMBER. THE ARGENTINES ARE WELL AWARE OF THE US NON PROLIFERATION POLICIES AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RENEGOTIATION OF A NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT BEFORE ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY COULD BE ENVISIONED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CASTRO MADEROS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF CNEA IS SHAKY SINCE THE ARMY WANTS ITS OWN MAN AS PRESIDENT OF THE CNEA. THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE A HOT ISSUE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS BETWEEN THE ARMY AND NAVY. CASTRO MADERO HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON THE CNEA NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND IS ENDEAVORING TO CONVINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CRITICAL NEED FOR NUCLEAR ELECTRIC POWER TO FILL THE POWER GAP BY THE 2,000. THIS INCLUDES AN INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS IN THE DISTANT FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRESIDENTS SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FEEL THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD AT LEAST HOLD UP ON DECISIONS FOR A LARGER NUCLEAR PROGRAM BEYOND ATUCHA II UNTIL A HYDROELECTRIC PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED TO FILL THE POWER GAP AND MORE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR FUEL CONVERSION. CASTRO

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, POLICIES, TREATY RATIFICATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, TREATY OF TLATELOLCO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS03491
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-1054
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaacyws.tel
Line Count: 412
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d9ddcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2785000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF ARGENTINE NUCLEAR POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, ENRG, TECH, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9ddcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014